



FIGHT FOR \$15 DC

Mayor Bowser is calling on the DC Council to pass her legislation to support hardworking women and men in the District of Columbia, by raising the minimum wage to \$15 by 2020.

Low Wages = Invisible Ceiling

In a city as prosperous as DC, everyone deserves a fair shot. But low wages prevent some of our residents from getting that fair shot.

Nearly 1 in 5 Washingtonians live in poverty, and even more so in Wards 7 and 8 – where more than 1 in 4 people live below the poverty line. And it's not for lack of trying hard, playing by the rules, or putting in long hours on the job. It's just that for many low wage workers, the math doesn't add up. A family with two minimum wage earners makes \$43,680 a year, which is a full \$65,520 below the area median income.

A Path Out of Poverty

By raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour in 2020, two parents working 40 hours a week will be able to make more than \$60,000 a year. That is enough to support a family, and start saving to become a homeowner.

In addition, the Mayor's proposal will support tipped workers. Thousands of District workers rely on tips to make ends meet. But restaurant servers, bartenders, and other tipped workers haven't had a raise in a decade. Mayor Bowser's bill fixes that problem by increasing the tipped-minimum wage by 2022, guaranteeing that each tipped worker will earn at least \$15 per hour.

Moving Our Economy Forward

Cities and states across the country are successfully raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, proving that decent wages and strong business climates can go hand in hand. In fact, raising the minimum wage can actually stimulate the economy. It drives consumption, by allowing low-wage workers to spend more dollars locally. It also increases retention and productivity - saving time and money for businesses.

The Mayor will assemble a task force – made up of representatives from business, labor and government – to make recommendations on how DC maintains our upward trajectory toward progress and prosperity in DC. We will chart a course forward with a pro worker and pro business environment, while strengthening our regional competitiveness.